

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 7, 8, and 9 and amend claims 1, 3-6, and 10 so that the claims read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A positive electrode for an alkaline storage battery comprising an active material for an alkaline storage battery comprising a nickel hydroxide powder,
wherein said nickel hydroxide is a solid solution containing magnesium,
a magnesium content in said nickel hydroxide is 2 to 7 mol% of all metallic elements contained in said nickel hydroxide,
a tap density of said nickel hydroxide is 1.9g/cm³ or more,
a half-width of a peak attributed to (101) face near $2\theta = 37$ to 40° in a powder X-ray diffraction pattern of said nickel hydroxide by CuK α radiation is 0.7 to 1.2° ,
a ratio of intensity B of a peak in said powder X-ray diffraction pattern attributed to (001) face near $2\theta = 18$ to 21° to intensity A of said peak attributed to (101) face near $2\theta = 37$ to 40° : B/A is 1.1 or more, and
a sulfate ion content in said nickel hydroxide is 0.5 wt% or less;
further containing 0.5 to 3 parts by weight of a powder comprising an oxide of at least one element selected from the group consisting of Y, Yb, Lu, Ti and Ca per 100 parts by weight of said active material.
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The positive electrode ~~active material~~ for an alkaline storage battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said nickel hydroxide is a solid solution further containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of cobalt and manganese.
4. (currently amended) The positive electrode ~~active material~~ for an alkaline storage battery in accordance with claim 3, wherein an amount of said at least one element selected from the group consisting of cobalt and manganese, contained in said nickel hydroxide, is 0.5 to 3 mol% of all metallic elements contained in said nickel hydroxide.
5. (currently amended) The positive electrode ~~active material~~ for an alkaline storage battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein the surface of said nickel hydroxide is coated with an oxide of cobalt.

6. (currently amended) The positive electrode ~~active material~~ for an alkaline storage battery in accordance with claim 5, wherein an average valence number of cobalt contained in said oxide of cobalt is larger than 3.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An alkaline storage battery comprising the positive electrode in accordance with claim 1 ~~[[7]]~~, a negative electrode and an alkaline electrolyte.

11. (original) The alkaline storage battery in accordance with claim 10, wherein said alkaline electrolyte contains sodium hydroxide.

12. (original) The alkaline storage battery in accordance with claim 11, wherein the concentration of said sodium hydroxide in said alkaline electrolyte is 1 to 5 mol/liter.